



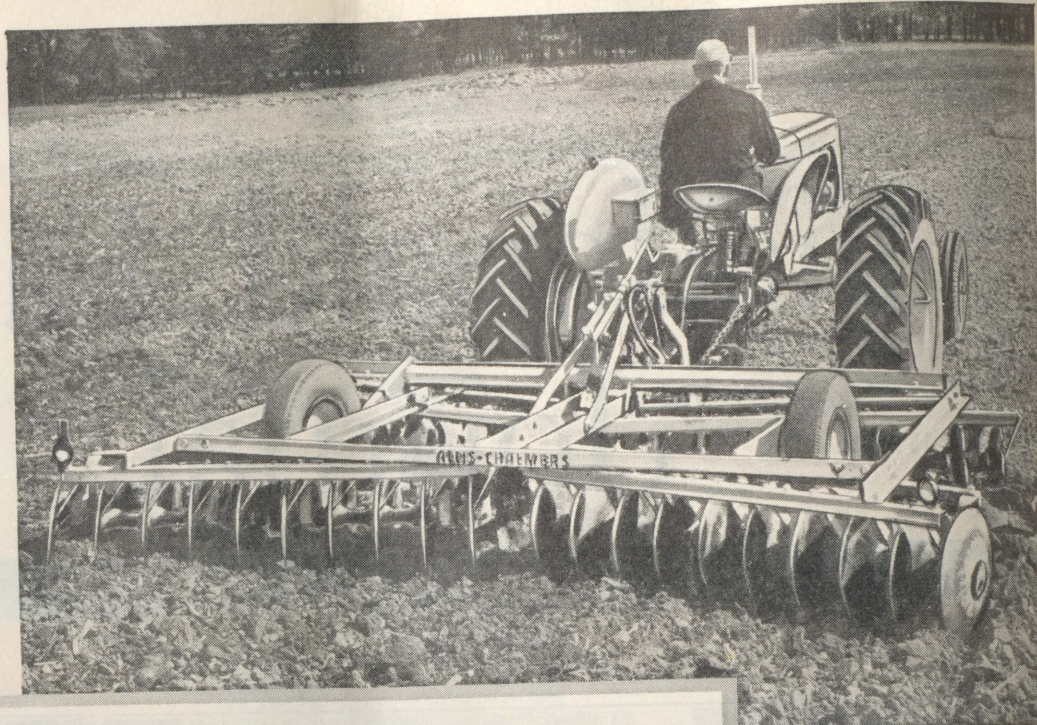
THE Macdonald Farm Journal

VOLUME 16 No. 6

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F A R M • S C H O O L • H O M E





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Our Family Farms

At the time of the 1951 Census, 623,000 land holdings in Canada were classified as farms. When you examine these figures closely, you uncover some rather startling facts.

You will find that 235,000 farms had gross sales of between \$250 and \$2,500. As farm costs eat up roughly half of each sales dollar, it is obvious that this large group of farms has inadequate incomes.

Another substantial number (87,000 farms) are on a subsistence level — really not farms at all — which sell less than \$250 worth of products. Part-time farms, fairly well confined to food production for home use but also selling some products, number another 65,000. A part-time farmer earns his main income from other sources. Add to this figure a few hundred institutional farms, and you end up with a figure of 388,000 farms on a non-commercial scale. Because of their low incomes, these should not be classified as family farms. However, we must recognize that total production from all these small units taken together is a significant contribution to our surplus problems.

Other Farms Not Family Farms

Farms operated by managers and owned by someone else number about 7,500. There are some 20,500 large commercial farms, likely operated by the owner, but on which hired labour does most of the work.

About 23,000 farms are operated by tenants with insecure short leases. Other tenants with secure long leases can be classified as family farmers. Another group of farms, partly owned and partly rented but with insecure rental arrangements, number about 45,000.

We find that we now have another 95,000 farms which are too large, or organized and operated in such a way that they can not be classified as family farms.

How Many Family Farms?

From our original figures, let us subtract the 388,000 low income farms plus the 95,000 farms which we should subtract for other reasons. We now find that we have left about 240,000 family farms in Canada out of the total of 623,000 reported in the Census.

Four conditions must be satisfied before a farm can be classified as a "family farm": (1) Decisions are made by the operator (2) The farm family provides most of the labour (3) Rental agreements provide security for the operator and family (4) The farm enterprise can provide at least an adequate minimum standard of living for the family. (Gross annual sales in excess of \$2,500 is considered a minimum).

Realistic Policies Needed

Farming to-day has become a highly mechanized commercial enterprise. So that our established family farms may hold their own, expanded farm credit facilities are needed. Beginning farmers, and some now in the low income group, could use adequate establishment credit. Many farmers should be helped to obtain proper rental arrangements, father-son, or co-operative agreements.

Farm policies aimed at maintaining a fair relationship between family-farm costs and prices will always be a major concern of our farm organizations. But it is impossible for them to obtain a price level that will be of much help to the low income group.

For most of the thousands of "farms" on sub-standard incomes, separate policies are required. Policies which aim to provide other sources of income, offer re-establishment credits, or other rehabilitation measures are urgently needed. Large numbers of people presently making too little income from the land might well be encouraged to make their living elsewhere. Better markets and a more secure future for our family farms would be the net result.

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Is Your Sugar Bush Retarded?

by A. R. C. Jones

Over the past 20 years there has been an alarming decline in maple syrup production. A critical look at your own sugar bush operations will likely show where improvements can be made.

IT WILL come as no surprise to Canadians that maple syrup and sugar are luxury products, and in relation to the demand the supply is extremely limited. The province of Quebec leads the parade in the production of maple products and besides topping all other provinces, her output exceeds the total production of the United States. These simple facts emphasize the importance of a sugar bush to rural communities in this province, and have been comforting to owners of sugar groves in Quebec for many years.

However, an alarming note has been sounded by the latest agricultural statistics which indicate that the supply of maple products coming from this province has been steadily declining. This is surprising in light of the constant and unabating demand for maple syrup products. Why are these lands becoming less productive? Undoubtedly many reasons can be put forward to account for yearly ups and downs in production, but it is more difficult to explain the steady decline over a 20 year period.

Some Reasons for the Decline

(i) When livestock are allowed to graze in a sugar bush, lower sap production inevitably results. It has been definitely established that up to 25% more sap can be produced in ungrazed maple groves than in grazed groves. In addition, the future sap-producing trees are grazed and damaged to such an extent that there are no replacements coming along to step into the shoes of the dying veterans. It may take some years, but continued grazing will eventually result in extinction of the sugar bush.

(ii) A sugar bush, if not carefully tended, gradually declines in sap yield and number of tappable trees per acre. In order to get the best production from a bush the operation must be concentrated as much as possible in order to get the highest syrup production per acre. This amounts to long-term planning to bring along young sugar maples in areas where the forest has been opened up. One hundred tappable trees per acre, ten inches in diameter and above, is a worthwhile goal — with many more smaller trees per acre.

(iii) The gradual infiltration of young, shade-loving, softwood species into maple woods cuts down on the available space for sugar maple reproduction and at the same time appreciably decreases the yield of sap.



Frequent tapping on the south face of this tree has resulted in permanent injury to the sap-wood.

What Affects the Sap Run?

Sap production is closely related to the size of the individual tree crowns, their exposure to sunlight, the amount of soil moisture available to the roots, the health and vigour of the sugar trees and the weather which characterizes the season. All are important to the production of sap from any sugar bush, and anything adversely affecting these conditions can cut down on sap yields. Each, with the exception of weather, can be controlled by careful improvement work in the woodlot.

Considering these facts, you should attempt to have sugar maples of all ages coming along in your bush, as the old trees lose their vigour they should be cut; this will permit their replacement by the younger maples. At the same time clearing of non-producing trees for fuel in the evaporation process is necessary. Clear in such a way as to favour the growth and development of young sap producers.

However, no clearing should be done on the borders of the bush. Closed borders, in the form of a dense growth of underbrush, should be maintained to conserve soil moisture in the woods. Drying winds can rapidly reduce this important source of moisture and also remove the leaf litter that acts as a sponge to hold water.

To permit easy sap collection it is advisable to have sugar roads throughout the bush. These routes should be kept clear of all underbrush. Elsewhere the maples should be allowed to grow in abundance, and should be favoured by the owner. Thin out other interfering species. Care must be taken never to thin so heavily that the ground is not partially shaded. Sugar maples will not grow in full sunlight, other species will take over where these conditions exist.

Tapping

Many operators attempt to tap only on the sunny side of the tree, as this side generally runs earlier than the other sides. However, although the earliest sap generally comes from the south and east faces, the other sides will catch up by the end of the season. A concentration of sap holes on one side will eventually result in serious injury to the tree.

The wisest procedure in tapping is to select holes in an area two to four feet above the ground. Rotate these holes around the tree in such a way that each year you are tapping eight to ten inches to one side of last year's scar and never directly above or below it. After use, tap holes dry out and the wood surrounding the hole becomes stained. This area may extend for one to two feet above and below the tap hole. This stained area will not produce sap again until a new layer of wood has grown over the dead wood. This should emphasize the importance of rotating the sap holes. Start low down and work up and around the tree, stagger the holes so that they will not fall directly in line with the holes below until a height of four feet has been reached.

Tap holes should be bored to a depth of from one and a half inches for small trees, up to three inches for large trees. Do not bore too deeply as this will bring you into the heartwood. Sap comes only from the outer shell of the tree—the sapwood. Any trees under ten inches should not be tapped. Two buckets can be hung for trees over 16 inches in diameter, three for trees over 20 inches and four buckets for trees larger than 26 inches.

Conclusion

Considering the declining production from maple bush operations in Quebec, it would be well to take a critical

look at your own sugar bush to consider where improvements might be made. Make sure your own grove is not adding its weight to this unfortunate development.

Perhaps some of the above suggestions will help you in your operation. Most sugar groves can stand some improvement that will help to halt this downward trend. It is a gloomy prospect to think that there might come a day when we will no longer be able to smack our lips over pancakes and maple syrup, or savour maple sugar taffy at "sugaring off" parties.

Any forward steps that can be taken to better sap yields and to maintain the number of producing sugar trees in the bush should help improve its over-all production. This will result not only in a better return to the owner, but also pay great dividends in terms of satisfaction as one who is contributing handsomely to conserving our dwindling natural resources.



A sugar maple which has fallen victim to wind breakage. Note the absence of tappable-sized trees for replacements.

Farmers Grow More Food, Fiber Than World Can Buy

Farmers are growing more food and fiber than the world can pay for, according to the IFAP Rome meeting.

The introduction of the Policy Report of the meeting says, "Agriculture in the free world is producing more food and fiber than the available consumers—domestic and foreign—are prepared to take in the commercial market at prices which producers consider adequate."

Because of this, the conference said, surpluses have piled up in certain areas for some commodities. On top of this, prices to farmers have continued to go down in most countries.

"This situation prevails," IFAP says, "in spite of the fact that governments in practically every country in the world are intervening to support prices of basic crops and livestock products. And also in spite of the fact that general economic conditions, upon which purchasing

power for agricultural products so much depends, have been good in almost all countries.

There are two main reasons for this situation, according to the IFAP delegates. The first reason, they say, is the government intervention in prices. "This intervention," the meeting said, "which is certainly necessary if farm prices are not to suffer a serious collapse, is based in each country on local conditions. As a result, in some exporting countries, prices have been maintained at a level inconsistent with existing competition for the world market. On the other hand, in some traditionally deficit countries, price support has pushed some commodities onto an export surplus basis."

The second reason, the meeting stated, is that while farmers in surplus areas have, by and large, continued to produce at the high level induced by war and post-war necessities, farmers in the traditional importing countries have pushed production far above the pre-war level.

What kind of quality do you get

When You Buy Oats

by H. R. Klinck

- *Though thick the hulls and light the groats*
- *Some folks maintain that "Oats is Oats"*

Are you one of these folks? Yes, oats are oats alright, but there are oats of good quality and oats of poorer quality. Do you know which kind you buy? Don't rely entirely on grade!

WHAT do we mean by quality? For our purposes quality in oats refers to the amount of kernel or groat in proportion to the amount of hull covering the kernel. An oat grain having a thin hull which is well filled by the kernel will be a good quality oat; one having a thick, heavy hull and a proportionately small kernel will be a poor quality oat. In terms of feeding value the proportion of kernel to hull may be an important consideration, particularly for poultry and hogs. If you find that your supply of oats for feed is running low and you are forced to buy some it is well to keep in mind a few facts and some simple methods of judging quality.

Why Quality Varies

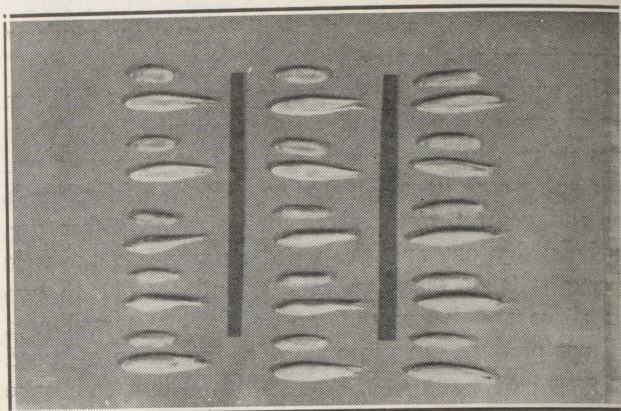
Adverse climatic conditions, diseases which attack the oat crop, lodging and other factors may interfere with normal kernel development and in turn will influence the proportion or per cent kernel in the grain. However, even when growing conditions are ideal, large variations in this character are brought about by differences between varieties. The per cent kernel may vary from as high as 80% in some varieties to 70% or lower in others. In other words, in every 100 pounds of oats you can expect between 20 and 30 pounds of hulls.

Average proportion of kernel to hull of some oat varieties grown at Macdonald College over a 7-year period.

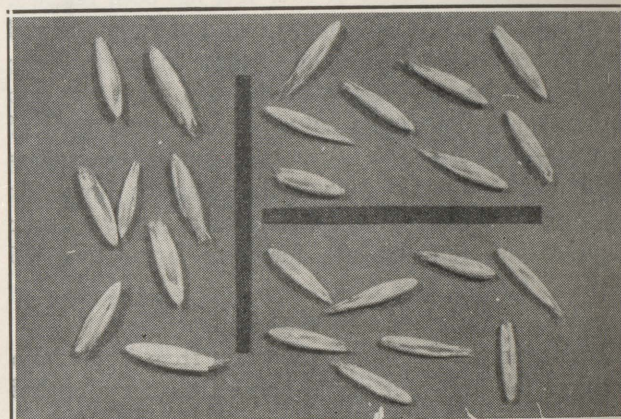
	Kernel	Hull
Roxton	77.9 lbs.	22.1 lbs.
Shefford	77.4 lbs.	22.6 lbs.
Beaver	74.7 lbs.	25.3 lbs.
Abegweit	72.4 lbs.	27.6 lbs.
Ajax	71.0 lbs.	29.9 lbs.

Examine the Grain

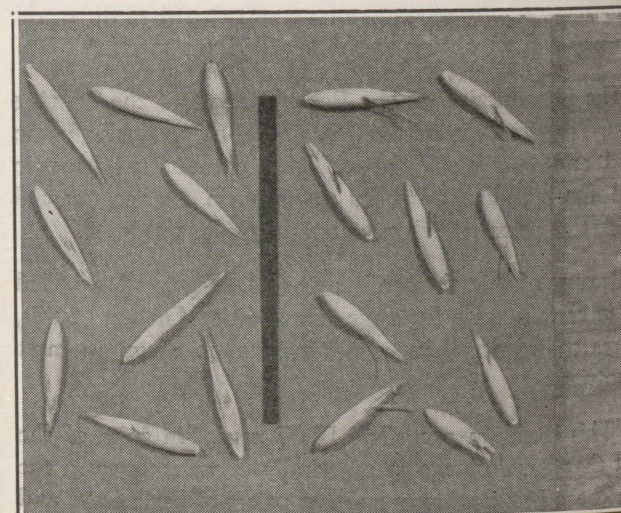
How can you determine how large the kernel is in relation to the hull? At experimental stations this is done by removing the hulls from a small sample of oats of known weight, then weighing either the hulls or the naked kernels, and calculating the percentage of kernel. While this provides an accurate measure of kernel content, it takes considerable time and requires special equipment. Few farmers would want such accuracy. Nevertheless, there are other ways of estimating the proportion of kernel to hull which are accurate enough for practical purposes.



Comparatively short kernels (left) and those which taper toward the tip (center) are inferior to long, rectangular types (right).



Grain lots containing double oats (left) or oats with a deep crease (lower right) lack the quality of those which bulge at the crease (upper right).



Long tips or awn stubs reduce bushel weight but not quality.

Some lots of oat grain contain a considerable number of "double" oats. Look for these first. With double oats the kernel of the main grain is missing and the normally developed secondary grain, or pin oat, is partially embedded in the hull of the main grain. So there are two hulls but only one small kernel. You can see that the per cent of kernel in double oats will be very low. If there are many double oats in the grain its feeding value will be greatly reduced.

The second thing to observe when examining oats for quality is the depth and width of the crease on the grain. A narrow, deep crease indicates either a thick hull or one that is poorly filled by the kernel. A shallow, wide crease, on the other hand, indicates good filling and usually a thin hull. In some well filled, thin hulled varieties the grain will actually bulge on the crease side, giving the appearance that the hull is almost too small for the kernel. Such oats make excellent feed.

In some varieties the kernels are short compared to the length of the whole grain and consequently the hulls are not completely filled. In these varieties the per cent kernel is usually relatively low. The best way to examine this is to pinch the kernel out of the hull and then compare its length with that of the empty hull.

You can get an idea of the relative thickness of the hulls, too, by observing how easy the kernel comes out and by pinching the empty hulls between your thumb-nail and forefinger. If the kernel is not easily removed and the hulls are somewhat tough and brittle, you likely have a thick hulled, poor quality oat. If the kernel comes out easily — in many cases naked kernels may be found in the sample — and the hulls tend to be soft and pliable, the quality is likely high.

Examine the shape of the naked kernels. This will provide a further indication of oat quality. On some varieties, for example, the kernels carry a fairly uniform depth and width throughout their entire length, an indication that they have filled the hulls reasonably well and have provided good quality oats. On other varieties the kernels may be long but they fail to carry their thickness uniformly to the tip and leave a considerable portion of the hull not filled. In this case the quality is not as good.

Don't Rely Entirely on Grade

Feed oats should be examined for kernel content even when buying them by grade. Only oats with a high weight per measured bushel volume are placed in the higher grades. For instance, No. 1 Feed oats from the West must weigh at least 34 pounds per measured bushel; the higher grades demand a higher minimum weight. But weight per measured bushel is not always a good indicator of quality. Oats that are reasonably plump but carry only a short tip on the hull will give a high weight per measured bushel, whether the hull is thick or thin. On the other hand, oats that are plump but have a long tip on the hull or carry stubs of awns — anything that will

prevent their close packing — will not weigh heavily in the bushel measure. Tests at Macdonald College have shown that clipping off the long tips found on such varieties as Shefford or Mabel will reduce the hull content by one per cent or less, while the same treatment will bring about an increase of five to ten pounds in the measured bushel weight.

The only advantage in buying oats in the higher grades, say No. 1 Feed or higher, lies in the fact that there is good assurance that the grain is reasonably sound and contains only a small percentage of other kinds of grain and seeds. There is no guarantee that the grain will have a high proportion of kernel to hull and therefore be of good quality. The lower grades may contain good quality oats, oats which have been given a lower grade because of low bushel weight, but at the same time more damaged grain and trash is allowed in these grades.

It will pay you to examine the grain carefully to determine the kernel content, whether it is in a high grade or a low grade. If it is in a high grade and the quality is good, this is probably the safest buy. If it is in a low grade — and consequently cheaper — but the quality of the grain is good, the bargain you will get will depend on the amount of trash present.

Always keep in mind the quality of the oats you buy. High quality oats are always the cheapest in the long run.

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The Plight of Agriculture

by W. E. Haviland

In this article, the author points out some of the reasons why agriculture remains in a slump while the rest of the economy booms. If we are ever to realize the goal of profitable farm prices for most family farms, "It is impossible to escape the conclusion that there are too many small-scale, high-cost producers — the familiar trend towards larger, more commercialized, and more mechanized farms will continue . . . on a scale large enough to maintain the farm family at a desirable standard of living."

IN THE LAST three years agriculture has become depressed while the rest of the economy is booming. And this situation will probably continue through 1956. The contention that general prosperity is a pre-requisite for prosperity in agriculture is still valid, however. To convince oneself of this you have only to imagine how much worse it would be for agriculture right now if a serious slump occurred in the whole economy. In other words, the plight in which the agricultural industry finds itself is *not* due to a decrease in domestic demand, because consumer demand has remained very active. The cause of our present trouble was World War II which brought a bulge in demand for farm products, especially export demand. Fifteen years ago, agriculture was called upon to expand greatly its production in order to supply wartime needs. Agriculture prospered during the war but, in the process, became over-expanded in relation to peacetime export and domestic markets. And so the price of prosperity in agriculture during World War II is now being paid in the form of the painful adjustments which have been underway since 1952.

The Problems of Surpluses

Farm prices are particularly sensitive even to slight oversupply, and the continuing high level of farm production since World War II has built up excess supplies along several lines.

There has been a lot of talk recently about solving our surplus problems by getting people to eat more. If there were only one surplus product this remedy might offer us some hope, but people cannot eat more of everything. Therefore, increases in the consumption of certain farm products can be made only at the expense of decreases in the consumption of certain other farm products. The population of Canada is expanding, it is true, but not fast enough both to keep up with the increased production of agriculture and to replace the shrinking export markets.

The Outlook for Farmers

WHEAT

This argument applies with special force to the wheat surplus because Canada exports about three-quarters of her wheat. Here we are highly dependent on foreign demand, which has fallen behind that of last year. Even if the 1956 crop of wheat is a failure, we will still have

a lot of wheat in storage. The fact is that the United States has been outselling and underselling us in wheat in the world market. And some former importers of wheat, like India and France, are now producing more of their own requirements, and even have some for export.

DAIRY

The market for dairy products is mainly domestic as contrasted with the largely export market for wheat. The expanding population will mean a greater demand for dairy products of about 2% per year. Rising incomes per person, however, do not contribute much to an expanding market for dairy products as a whole. The increased production of raw milk since 1951 has been excessive in the sense that it has contributed to a mounting surplus of butter in government storage.

Federal butter purchases have tended temporarily to obscure the fact that the dairy economy is hitched through butter to the whole fats-and-oil economy. It is a feature of modern life that dairy products have to compete with certain non-dairy substitutes in the consumer's budget, and this competition will not weaken.

The fluid milk markets are also under pressure. The supply of fluid milk is excessive in relation to the demand *at the present level of fluid milk prices*. In other words, there is a downward pressure on fluid milk prices. This shows itself in the form of increased percentages of surplus milk at Class II prices, which amounts to nearly the same thing as lower prices for fluid milk. Furthermore, the alleged palatability and convenience of instant skim milk powder, as well as its durability, may mean that it will encroach further on fluid milk sales.

LIVESTOCK

The outlook for livestock and meat is a little brighter than for dairy products and wheat, not because higher prices are to be expected in the near future but because feed will be plentiful. But the market for meat is more promising in the long-run, because lean meat is one of the few farm products that enjoys a rising demand per capita as people's incomes rise.

Too Many High-Cost Producers

Trying to sum up the general outlook for agriculture I would say that efficient low-cost producers will still be able to produce at a profit, but the high-cost producers

will continue to be pinched by the price-cost squeeze. I venture to predict that the familiar trend towards fewer, larger, more commercialized and more mechanized farms will continue. This does not mean the end of family farming, but it does mean that increases will continually have to be made in the amount of capital required to farm on a scale large enough to earn sufficient net farm income in order to maintain the farm family at a desirable standard of living. But unmanageable agricultural surpluses seem to be assuming an alarming measure of permanency. It is impossible to escape the conclusion that there are too many small-scale high-cost producers to enable the market forces of supply and demand to establish a profitable level of farm prices.

Of course, on a global scale there is not a surplus of food, but rather there is a deficit. But we have not exhibited the will, nor have we found the financial way, to move our extra food into stomachs abroad instead of into storage at home.

* * *

Why World Food Plans Fail

The reasons for the failure of governments to establish a world food reserve or a world food distribution scheme, were gone into at Rome in the IFAP conference.

Perhaps the most important reason for this failure, the delegates said, is that the specific proposals for international food distribution have been couched in vague and general terms.

"They have taken insufficiently into account important facts in regard to existing national policies in the fields of agriculture and foreign trade," IFAP said. "They have seemed to assume that large quantities of important food commodities could be distributed through an international agency without affecting the normal international trade in the same commodities. And above all, they have not come to grips with the problem of how the pricing policy of the international food distribution agency would be arrived at and how it would be carried out . . ."

The delegates said that another reason for failure is that governments possessing surpluses have not been convinced that an international agency could handle their surplus supplies as well as they could themselves. In addition, the meeting stated, these governments have not wanted to hand over large sums, even in terms of commodities, to an untested international agency. And the governments have been unwilling to turn over large surpluses which they might themselves be able to use directly to national advantage.

"Finally," the IFAP said, "it may be mentioned that, while governments of countries which might be expected to be recipients of surplus stocks have enthusiastically applauded the general idea of a world food reserve, there is little evidence of serious consideration as to how the distribution of large quantities of surplus stocks could be fitted into the national food distribution patterns of the recipient countries."

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FARM FORUM

News and Views

by L. G. Young
Provincial Secretary

Notes on Discussion Topics

The attendance at forum meetings on "New Canadians", topic of Jan. 2nd, was the smallest this season. Many forums stated they would not be meeting because of the New Year festivities. Those who did meet evidenced both satisfaction and displeasure with their experiences with New Canadians while many others indicated they had none in their community. The majority pointed out that immigrants provided farm labour, enriched our culture, broadened our thinking, and gave us new farming ideas. Boyd Settlement in Huntingdon had this to say: "Immigrants helped to overcome a complete lack of hired help. There are no Canadians available because of better wages and hours in industry. For the same reason few immigrants have stayed very long."

On January 9th, "Who Benefits From Price Supports?", was the basis for some of the best discussions to date. Some of the forums were of the opinion everyone benefits and at the same time some thought that no one benefits. Others qualified their answers to include only consumers or producers. Bishopton in Compton indicated that a healthy national economy helps everyone and "national economy is at its best with reasonable relative prices."

The third January broadcast on the subject "How can Farmers Best Organize", brought out almost unanimous agreement that farmers should all belong to, and actively support, a farm organization of some type. Most thought one of the most important things farmers can do is keep the members of their government up to date on the farmers' views and farm problems. North Potton in Brome decided farmers could help themselves only if they were informed. Following is their answer: "As individuals we should be interested in study groups to make ourselves better informed on working methods, marketing at local, national or international levels, disposing of surplus food at the same levels."

A number of forums held joint meetings on January 23rd. Of considerable interest was a meeting in Buckingham of over 125 farmers and forum members. I have already received 3 letters telling of the meeting and expressing pleasure at the talk on "Economical Feeding of the Dairy Herd" given by Dr. Eric Bradford of Macdonald College. Several other similar meetings were held although reports had not been received at time of writing. Ridge in Pontiac, as well as some Eastern Townships forums, held a meeting, listened to the broadcast, and either watched films or TV. Some forums sponsored card parties.

Forum Whisperings

Montcalm-Terrebonne District forums have organized a district council. For some time this area has not had a council and consequently no representation.

Hudson Forum met with Mr. J. L. Van Camp, Manager of the Canadian Forestry Association, and have decided to sponsor a Canadian Tree Farm Committee.

Cookshire Forum in Compton and Heathton Forum in Stanstead both sent resolutions to their M.P.P. and M.L.A. protesting the attempt by the city of Sherbrooke to expropriate the property of the Eastern Townships Agricultural Association, that is the fair grounds and barns at Sherbrooke.

Lochaber forum in Papineau is endeavouring, with the aid of the local U.C.C. and Co-op. Federee, to obtain aid for that part of Papineau, Gatineau and Pontiac, which was seriously ravaged by drought in 1955 and too much rainfall in 1954.

Secretary's Notebook

The N.F.R.F. conference, the C.F.A. meeting, and the session of the E.A.C. were all attended by at least one of your delegates. Mrs. Telford, Reg. Hodge, Walter Hodgman and myself attended as much of the meetings as circumstances would allow.

Just pondering over the Forums the other day, I gave some study to their members. Of 11 members in one, 4 were farmers, two had farms but were employed elsewhere fulltime, and there was one minister and an implement dealer. The others weren't farmers but I was not sure of their occupation. This is, I think, one of the best forums. What's the secret?

It consists of a cross-section of the community. All interests are represented. In other words, they could be termed a small community. Everyone is free to join. As no one feels left out, there are no splinter groups, hence the excuse, "there are too many organizations," is never heard. Monday nights are kept free.

At some of their meetings they simply discuss the broadcast and talk. Other times they become carried away with a local project and forget the topic. Again they may play cards, or have other entertainment at their meetings. Above all else they adjourn in good time, and rotate discussion leaders. Is there any secret?

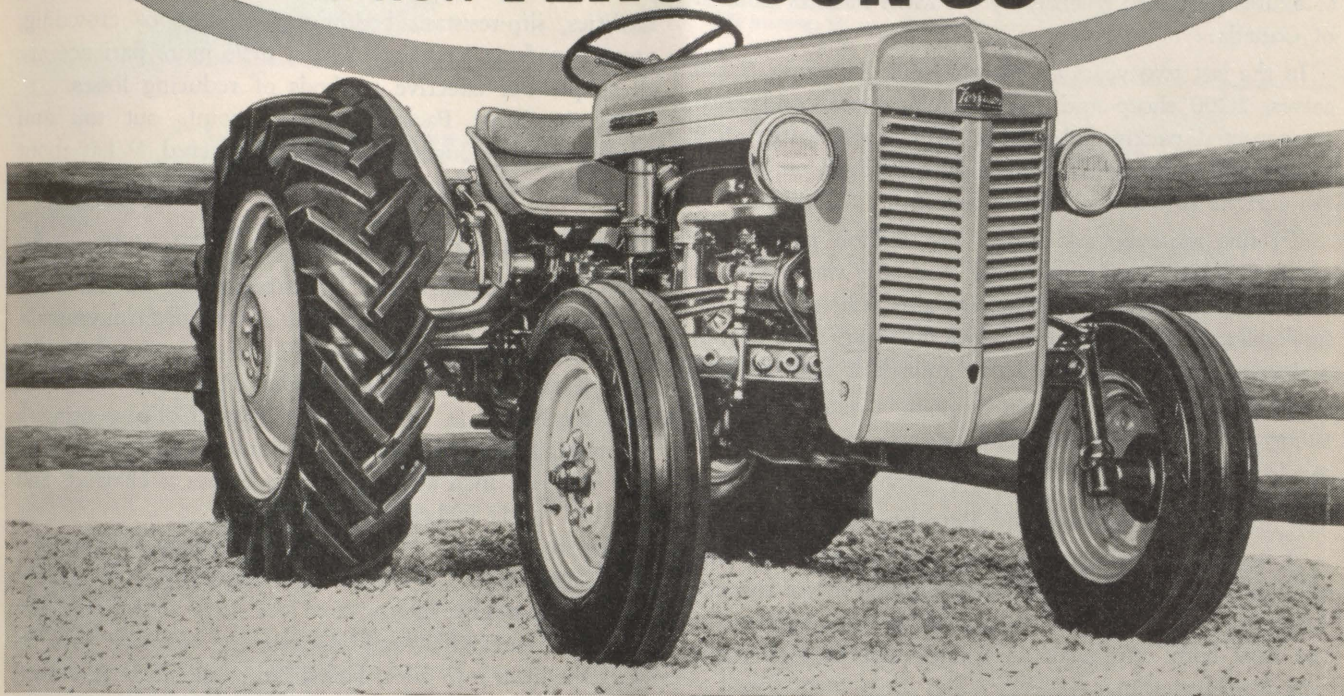
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1. New Hydraulic System with Quadramatic Control for Lift control, double-acting Draft control, Response control and Position control. Guarantees far greater accuracy for plowing, discing, cultivating.

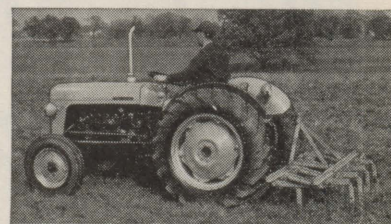
2. Dual-Range Transmission provides six forward speeds, two reverse; fits tractor speed exactly to the work. Low range for harvesting, plowing, sub-soiling. High range (up to 14 mph) for light jobs or highway travel.

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Flexitiller has individually mounted blades. Change their number or position you have a tiller, a disc or a plow.



Speed up seedbed preparation at low cost with the exclusive Ferguson tiller. Perfect team-mate for the Ferguson 35.

Massey-Harris-Ferguson

Toronto, Canada LIMITED

Livestock Losses

DISEASE, parasites, and injury to livestock cost farmers of Canada an estimated \$18 million according to figures published recently by the Meat Packers Council of Canada.

In the last two years an average of 9,200 cattle, 7,300 calves, 2,200 sheep and 14,000 swine were condemned at inspected packing plants. A further 600 cattle, 650 calves, 550 sheep, and 3,000 hogs were dead on arrival. At current prices, these losses are about \$2,500,000.

To this must be added the 3½ million portions of carcasses which were condemned. Not only was poundage lost but the value of adjacent cuts also reduced. The annual toll exceeds \$7 million. Losses on farms from deaths, and in particular from unthrifty animals is even greater.

These losses can be reduced by doing a number of little things at the right time. The answer does not lie so much in doing anything big or spectacular.

Diseases and Parasites

A balanced ration goes a long way towards providing resistance to disease and parasites. You will invite anaemia in young pigs if you fail to provide ferrous sulphate to the new born. An anaemic animal will be ripe for a parasite infestation.

Disease outbreaks even can be minimized by prompt isolation and treatment. Swine erysipelas can be cut down by serum or culture vaccination. Yet despite this fact, the percentage of hog carcasses condemned because of arthritis (largely caused by this disease) has risen from 22 to 46 per cent of the total condemned.

Losses from tuberculosis in swine could be practically eliminated by isolating hogs from poultry and burying dead hens rather than throwing them into the pig pen.

Control of insect pests like warble fly, lice, and flies easily pay their way with greater gains. Drenching or pilling sheep, and pasture rotations help rid the flock of internal parasites. Similarly worm losses in swine can be controlled.

Injury

Enough meat to supply the annual needs of 50,000 Canadians is destroyed each year by careless handling. One out of ten hogs marketed is bruised.

De-horning, slappers instead of clubs, good loading facilities, slip-resistant bedding, avoidance of crowding, protection from heat and cold, a little more patience are all simple but effective methods of reducing losses.

As the Meat Packers Council points out soil and other natural resources need to be conserved. What about livestock conservation?

Heat Lamps and Fire Hazards . . .

Fire hazards can arise by careless use of infra-red heating lamps for brooding chicks and small farm animals. Temperatures of 660 degrees F. were measured on the face of the lamp and 312 degrees F. in the socket. In tests conducted at Pennsylvania State College, using a 250-watt lamp, straw litter was ignited where the lamp was held one inch away. At three inches it charred, and scorched at six inches.

The recommendations, that have resulted from this study, are that 250-watt lamps should not be placed closer than twelve inches from the litter with additional clearance allowed where chickens or animals tend to work the litter into piles. This distance should be increased for larger lamps.

Lamps should be suspended on chains if there is any possibility of falling and protected by a hood with a lower hoop. The hoop will cause the unit to roll over if it should fall and keep the lamp from contacting the litter, and the hood protects it from breakage.

Since high socket temperatures are also fire hazards the hoods should have openings around the top to provide circulation for cooling. Porcelain sockets are usually cooler than plastic sockets.

The service cord, too, should be made of heat resistant material that will not deteriorate when exposed to heat as will ordinary rubber installations.

Infra-red lamps are very useful for providing heat for brooding. They should be used in a safe manner.

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

*Activities, Plans and Policies of the Quebec
Department of Agriculture*

Apple Growers Faced Their Problems

THE Quebec Pomological Society held one of its better winter meetings in Montreal on January 23 and 24th; better on account of a larger than usual attendance of members, and better on account of the excellent papers which were presented. There was much to discuss and plan for, and the two days of the meeting were well used, with sessions starting on time and everyone in a mood to listen and profit from what was going on.

President Gerald Beaudin, in his review of the past year, stressed, as was natural in this season of abundant crops, the problem of disposal. Except for the cost of transportation, he pointed out, returns to growers in any part of Canada are about the same, and the only way to successfully market future crops will be by somehow bringing about an increase in consumption per person right across the country. Co-operative national advertising, he believes, is the answer to this problem. The Society continues to oppose the principles of Federal apple subsidies, but is prepared to co-operate in any workable national scheme of assistance to growers when necessary.

Quebec apples have established themselves on markets throughout Ontario, in the United States, the United Kingdom, the West Indies and Central and South America, where they have been well received; with apple production constantly increasing in this province, these outlets must be maintained.

Vice-president Marc Hudon continued on this theme, pointing out that in one district alone in Quebec 170,000 new trees were planted this spring. He called for a four or five man board which would direct the marketing of the crop, and felt that a distinctive trademark for Quebec apples is an immediate necessity.

Members of the Society seem to feel that their advertising campaign has been paying dividends, but the whole future of this effort is endangered through lack of the necessary funds to carry it on properly. Subscriptions, set at 1 cent per bushel, have been received punctually from co-operatives and from a few individual growers, but the great majority have neglected to pay their share, with the result that the whole scheme may have to be dropped.

Marketing Holds The Spotlight

How the State of Michigan handles marketing of fruits and vegetables was graphically described by R. F. Bittner, District Marketing Agent at Michigan State College. Fruits and vegetables, he pointed out, are today produced so abundantly that often we are faced with a greater supply than the consuming public will buy at a price that will reward the grower sufficiently. Production has leaped in the past fifteen or more years with the advent of better machinery, better fertilizers, new insecticides and fungicides, with the result that crops have become bigger and better; bigger, in fact, than can be sold easily. And so, to dispose of these bigger crops, new methods of marketing must be found.

There have been some striking developments in the marketing field lately; consumer packaging of meat, cheese, and eggs, concentrated citrus juices, the frozen food techniques, polyethylene packaging of apples, are but a few of the more spectacular ones, and tremendous results have been obtained from them. Spurred on by these achievements, Michigan has become keenly interested in doing something to hasten results from future marketing developments.

There, district marketing agents work closely with growers, sellers, and consumers. Services to the growers are organized with the idea that marketing should be thought of as one phase of production. Marketing is



President-elect. Marc Hudon speaks at the dinner meeting.

involved when a grower selects a certain variety of trees to plant; every phase of growing — pruning, fertilizing, spraying, has an effect on marketing. And to keep growers aware of what is going on, the Service provides a series of marketing tips throughout the season — reminders of grade tolerances, information on plantings of various varieties, the necessity of strict grading, and so forth. Also, studies have been made which have resulted in the introduction of better containers for various crops which will get the produce to market with the least possible damage en route.

Another part of the service is aimed at retail store managers. Demonstrations show how to build displays of fruits and vegetables, how to trim and otherwise prepare produce for the display rack, and stress the importance of the consumer-sized packages.

A third service, carried out by young women, uses radio and television time to bring to housewives information on the current supplies of various products, tips on how to serve fruits and vegetables, recipes, canning, and freezing information.

Promotion days, put on in collaboration with local radio stations, have been used to help move a large crop of a particular product by telling everyone within range of the station that ample supplies of this or that commodity are available at attractive prices. This, they have found, builds up a demand for the local crop and gets it sold.

M. M. Robinson, who is Secretary of the Ontario Fruit and Vegetable Growers' Association, felt that collective selling of the crop must replace the present individual efforts. The trend toward this is becoming evident but there is still a long way to go. Guaranteed grades, consumer packaging done by the grower and not by the sellers, and a continuity of supply are all musts. As he put it, the day of the windfall is past, and only good apples must find their way onto the markets.

Smithfield Experiments

Don Blair added to the information on the progress of the experimental work at the Smithfield Station which growers who attended the summer meeting had been given, pointing out that the object of the work there was to develop hardy, high quality, early maturing varieties; hardy varieties that will keep longer than Northern Spy and varieties resistant to scab. Seedlings with high quality and good storage behaviour have been selected, some of which appear hardier than Spies, and scab resistant seedlings have also been picked out. Their fruit quality is not too good, but they will be used in further crosses which may some day develop into good scab-resistant varieties.

One of the functions of the Station is the testing of new varieties and some have been evaluated which may become valuable additions to Quebec's commercial plantings. He mentioned Stark Earliest, an early ripening

variety of fairly good eating quality; Red Crimson Beauty, a sport which is a very attractive commercial-sized apple ripening in late July; Red Atlas, more attractive than the parent Atlas; Melrose, which seems to have promise as a late winter apple with high colour and a longer keeper than Northern Spy; Crandall, slightly small-fruited but attractive as a dessert and cooking variety. Yield tests showed that the average annual yields of Bancroft, Atlas and Hume were higher than the standard McIntosh.

On the subject of pruning, he felt that Eastern Canada orchards could stand heavier pruning than they are getting. Their trials had not shown any appreciable increase in yields through heavy pruning, but trees that had the more severe pruning produced larger apples which were better coloured.

P. D. Peterson of the Stauffer Chemical Company took his audience through the history of fungicides from the early discovery of Bordeaux through the various spray programmes that were in vogue years ago up to the present time with its multitude of materials for every purpose, and George Mitchell, who is President of the Georgian Bay Fruit Growers, told something of the apple business in Europe.

Resolutions

There is a large surplus of concentrated juice on hand at the Rougemont plant — a quantity equivalent to about 240,000 gallons of juice. Now that it is possible for the plant to put out a uniform cider, following five years of experimental work, a resolution was passed asking that the sale of cider be made legal in this province.

Growers of the Havelock, Hemmingford and Franklin areas asked the Provincial Department of Agriculture to appoint a qualified observer who would tour the orchards from May to September to report on conditions regularly to the Provincial Entomologist. It was pointed out that the climatic conditions of this area make insect control particularly difficult.

The Provincial Government was also asked to appoint a Chief of the Fruit Division to replace the late Mr. Proulx, to establish a Provincial Marketing Board, to make grants of up to one-third the cost of installing irrigation systems in orchards, and to give financial help to a tree-removal programme. Another resolution asking for increased grants toward the purchase of spray equipment was voted down.

The Federal Government was asked to do something to reduce the confusing number of different packs now in vogue and to have information on consumer packs that would identify weight, variety, grade, and grower. And the Society executive was asked to set up an information service that would keep growers up to the minute on supplies available, state of demand prices, etc.; this might be done by the present Markets Committee.

Marc Hudon came in as the new president, with Albert Whitney as vice-president, Jacques Berthiaume will continue as secretary.

Ten Years of Barley Improvement

THE Provincial Barley Contest is to be set up on a new basis next year, to take care of the ever-increasing number of farmers who are taking part each season.

For purposes of the contest the province will be divided into three districts, and the contest will be held in only one district each year. District No. 1, where the contest will take place in 1956, comprises the area south of Montreal; District No. 2, the counties north of the St. Lawrence; District No. 3, the Lower St. Lawrence from Nicolet to Rivière du Loup.

Regulations will be more severe, but prizes will be increased. Much greater importance will be placed on the judging of the crop in the field, and a score of at least 60% will be necessary to permit the crop to advance into the next stage of the contest. There will be \$500 in prize money for each district with a first prize of \$200; the first four samples in the district contest will come into the Provincial contest, where again the total prize money will be \$500, offered by the Department of Agriculture. The winner all down the line will receive a total of \$500 in prize money.

The 1955 contest was the tenth and there were more entries than ever. No fewer than 172 farmers entered the contest at the outset; 43 were eliminated at the time of the first field inspection, and 46 others went out of the contest when the bulk samples were being judged, leaving 83 in the finals.

Many of these rejections can be attributed to the type of season we had in 1955. Dry weather and aphid damage contributed to make many entries valueless and to cut down on yield and quality of others. For example, in 1950 the yield per acre was, on the average, 51.5 bushels and 70% of the samples graded No. 1, while in 1955 yield tumbled to 22 bushels with not quite half grading No. 1.

Prize money for the regional winners was put up by the Barley Improvement Institute and amounted to



Andre Auger, Chief of the Field Husbandry Service administers the barley improvement programme in Quebec.

\$1080; the individual prizes went from \$60 down to \$5, and were won by 45 individual farmers. Placing first in each of the seven regions were Alphonse Duval, St. Pascal, Maurice Laliberté, Honfleur, Xavier Rivest, l'Assomption, Ste. Therese Seminary, St. Therese, Armand Primeau, Ste. Martine, Rosario Brault, St. Guillaume and Norbert Morin, St. Thomas.

Placings in the Provincial Contest, where all the prize winners competed against each other, did not follow the same pattern, for in many cases a winner in the regional contest did not appear among the first five in the Provincial. Provincial winners were:

1st prize — Rosario Brault,	\$150
2nd prize — P. E. Girard, Ste. Rosaile	100
3rd prize — Gonzague Brault, Ste. Martine	75
4th prize — Remi Yelle, St. Remi	50
5th prize — Ste. Therese Seminary	25

Hereford Breeders Meet

Hereford breeders of Quebec, at their annual meeting held in Lennoxville at the end of January elected E. T. Webster as their president, with Garrett Chapman as vice-president and C. J. Tanner as secretary-treasurer. The Board of Directors includes M. T. Stenson, Sawyer-ville, Alex MacDonald, Sherbrooke, J. C. Routledge, Georgeville, J. P. Fleury, Montreal, W. W. Nichol, Lennoxville, A. Labonté, St. Agapit, E. G. Beattie, Lennoxville, and M. Fried, Rouyn. Mr. Webster was also appointed the representative of the Association to the Canadian Hereford Association meeting in Saskatoon.

During the five years the Association has been in existence, a considerable growth in interest in Herefords has been shown, and the 1955 registration of 332 head is a big jump from the 97 head registered in 1950. Last year was the first when a member of the Quebec club had been appointed to represent the Province on the National Board.



Provincial winner Rosario Brault with his prize-winning barley sample.

What's Ahead For The Ayrshires?

AYRSHIRE BREEDERS, at both the Provincial and the National level, have been in a quandry this winter; where to find secretaries for the National and for the Quebec organizations? The National problem seems to have been solved by the appointment of Doug. MacKechnie, but François Boulais has definitely stepped out of the Quebec job, after trying to do so for the past two years, and at the present moment it seems unlikely that he will be replaced, at least for the time being. The Provincial Society is going to try to do its promotion work through the local clubs, without the services of a fieldman-secretary until such time as a more permanent arrangement can be worked out, in hope that local breeders can keep up the good work formerly done by Mr. Boulais.

Breeders at the meeting were in something of a critical mood, but on relatively minor points. For instance, the new registration certificates came in for some harsh words and a lot of people wanted to go back to the old form which gave more information about the parentage of the animal in question. However, when it was explained that for a charge of 50¢ the certificate could be sent back to the National Livestock Records to have this additional information inserted, it was agreed not to press further with any requests for a different form of certificate.

There was also some complaint about the length of time it takes for a breeder to have his herd classified after he puts in his request. This was admitted, but it was stated that things may improve very shortly. On this subject it was asked if it would not be possible to replace the classifications "excellent", "good plus" etc. by a numerical scale as has been done by some of the other breeds, but after some discussion, and explanations as to why it would be difficult to assign a percentage

value to a cow that would mean much of anything, the question was dropped.

On the credit side, Pierre Labrecque of the Provincial Department reminded the breeders how interested his Service is in their welfare and promised that the technical and financial assistance which the Society now receives from Quebec would be continued. He reminded them that the Artificial Insemination centre at St. Hyacinthe has good bulls on hand, and promised that nothing would be left undone to see that the quality of their bulls was maintained and improved, for his staff are constantly on the look-out for good sires to buy for the centre.

Roland Pigeon, who is on the National Board, thought that the show of Ayrshires at Toronto this year was the best ever, and has the utmost confidence in the future of the breed. He admitted that some of the policies recently adopted had not proved too popular with breeders, but tried to point out that none the less they had been adopted with the definite purpose of improving the breed, and thought they should be given a fair trial before being condemned. A little more co-operation and a little less controversy, he thought, would help things immeasurably.

Secretary Boulais' report paid tribute to the Red and White Days in Quebec, which had brought out more exhibitors and more livestock than usual at the shows which had been held at Rimouski, Montmagny, Victoriaville, Richmond, Shawville, St. John, Louisville, Ste. Scholastique, Ste. Julienne, Chicoutimi, Havelock, Bedford, St. Bruno and Mont Laurier. One hundred and thirty farmers had exhibited at these shows.

Auctions held at St. Hyacinthe and at Ormstown had brought prices a little better than last year and new breeders seem to be interested in acquiring Ayrshires. Transfers for the year were 2,735 and registrations 4,580 with 385 exports recorded. Membership in the Society is 812 as compared with 901 in 1954. The year 1952 was the best for membership, when there were 1,056 on the rolls.

During the course of the meeting, production certificates were presented to 30 breeders for cows that had exceeded the 100% objective in R.O.P. Topping the list was J. P. Bradley's Glengarry Wonderful with a score of 196%, the top cow in the province for the third consecutive year. Standing first in their respective age groups were Ennismere Nettie of the J. G. Wilson herd, Mrs. Lucille Davis' Nether Brae Bloom, and Dupuit Frivole des Ecorces, owned by Eugene Dupuis of St. Jacques.

An Ayrshire trophy, the famous model cow, was presented to Philippe Granger, Director of the Dairy School at St. Hyacinthe, for having proved himself the high-scoring judge at the field day held last fall at Oka.



A certificate of production for Eugene Dupuis. Making the presentation is television star Helene Bedard.

It was decided by resolution that a finance committee should be set up to look out for the finances of the Society, and Messrs. Amedee Gagnon, J. H. McConnell, Roland Pigeon and Mrs. Davis were named as members. Other resolutions called for Federal R.O.P. inspectors to work in only one district and to supervise a certain

group of herds, and for club secretaries to assume the responsibility for organizing their own sales and publicity.

Amedee Gagnon was elected President for the new term with Mrs. Davis as vice-president and Messrs. Roland Pigeon, Clifford Oswald and J. P. Lagacé as directors.

Quebec's Beekeepers Hold Annual Meeting



Discussing the affairs of the beekeepers are J. R. Methot, Chief of the Provincial Bee Division, President Bosse and Aime Dion of Honfleur, Quebec's reigning honey king.

ALTHOUGH professional beekeepers are becoming fewer in Quebec each year, research conducted in the province by our Department of Agriculture, and by the Federal authorities, may make it possible for fewer apiculturists to produce more and better honey.

Louis Bosse of Ste. Martine, perennial president of the Association, presided at the meetings, which extended over two days on January 19 and 20 in Montreal and which were attended by a somewhat smaller number of members than usual. This gives point to figures quoted by J. R. Methot, Chief of the Provincial Bee Division, which showed a drop in professional apiculturists in Quebec from 3,440 in 1954 to 3,258 in 1955, with a corresponding drop in total number of colonies from 58,800 to 53,185. The loss of established producers was greater than these figures show, however, since the 1955 figures include a considerable number of new farmers just starting out.

Winter losses during 1955 were higher than usual, with an average of $21\frac{1}{2}$ reported in lost colonies for the province as a whole. An encouraging factor, however, is a new treatment, using anti-biotics, which it is claimed, is cleaning up American Foulbrood in the United States without destroying the colonies, and Mr. Methot promised that any apiculturists who want to try this system next year will receive full help and collaboration from the Department. Materials will be supplied free of cost and

it is hoped that by this means many colonies will be saved which otherwise would have to be destroyed. The disease was found in 98 places last year, and total destruction of the diseased colonies is required wherever it is found.

The four field days which had been held last summer had proved very popular, especially the innovation which divided the groups into two, with special features for those just starting out with bees. Honey exhibits at shows had been better than usual, and a Quebec beekeeper, Roland Labonté of Victoriaville, had taken first prize for white comb honey at the Royal this fall.

Investigations In Progress

Announcement that experimental work in Quebec will be augmented by the Federal Bee Division was made by M. Brown concentrating on problems of overwintering and also the possibilities of getting better results from package bees. Other projects under study by the Ottawa authorities, described briefly by Mr. Brown, include the control of Noseman disease by the use of Fumidil B, studies of the mating range of queens, pollen preferences of bees working in red clover, testing of strains and lines of hybrid queens, and experiments with various types of processing equipment.

M. Belzile, Director of the Experimental Farm at Normandin, is also carrying on experiments in overwintering, and although they have not progressed as yet to the stage where any definite conclusions can be drawn as to the methods best suited to that climate he described the various schemes that were to be tried out. A project that was to have been carried out at Oka came to an abrupt stop with the sudden death last fall of Father Claude, who was in charge.

The Provincial Department has been making a study of the various flowering plants of the district to determine the quantity and quality of nectar each produces, with a view to finding something that could be useful to bees in the season between the dandelion and the clover bloom periods.

Another project on which a start has been made at Normandin is a comparative study of the relative advantages of holding colonies over the winter or of starting fresh each spring. Here again, since the first package bees were ordered only last spring (and arrived very late) no results are ready for publication.

How To Get Started

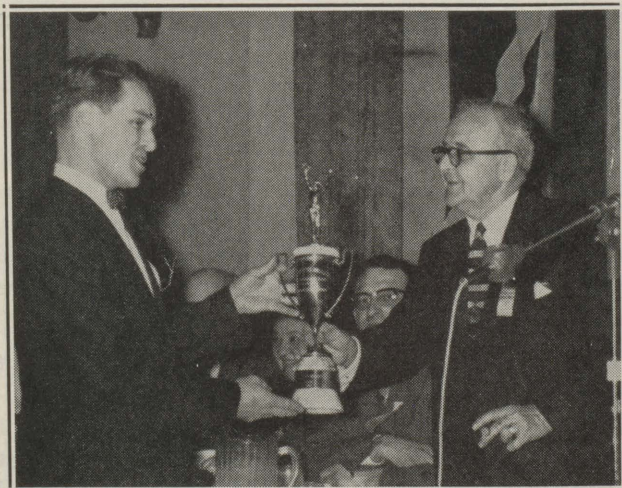
President Bosse, himself a successful professional, warned newcomers to the business against starting out on too big a scale. Beekeeping is a specialized business and one in which there is no substitute for experience. If he had his way, every beginner would spend three or four seasons working in a well-established apiary, learning the business from the ground up before starting on his own. With the fundamentals learned, a good strain of bees to start with, and some other production on the farm to cushion the shock of possible failures in the early years, a man with 300 or more producing colonies should be able to make a good living, he thought. Market conditions are improving, and Quebec bees at present supply only one third of the honey consumed in Quebec.

J. H. Lavoie, Provincial Horticulturist, reported on experimental work which had been done in California which showed that many materials used in spray programmes are extremely toxic to bees working in the orchards. While many of the materials included in the dangerous list are not in common use in Quebec, there still remain a sufficient number of toxic materials which are in use here. The "very toxic" list included DNOSOBP, EPN, sabadilla, Lindane, BHC, heptachlor, Chlorthion, Metacide, aldrin, dieldrin, diasinon, malathion, marathion, TRPP, endrin, chlordane.

In the moderately toxic group were Potasan, DDT, calcium arsenate, isodrin, chlorobenzilate, cryolite, ryania, NPD, TDE, schradan, methoxychlor, INOCHP, aramite and toxaphene.

Relatively inoffensive materials included sulphur, rotenone, Ovotran, terpine chlorate, pyrethrum products, Neotran, demeton, allethrin, DMC, Cunilate and nicotine.

The second day of the meetings was devoted to talks and discussions on the techniques of beekeeping, with a lot of time given to discussion on the types of bloom available in Quebec, problems of over-wintering, and early spring work in the apiary.



For the second consecutive year, Roger Benoit of Ste. Scholastique won the trophy for having recruited the most new members for the Society. Making the presentation is Horticulture Chief J. H. Lavoie



Roland Labonte of Victoriaville accepts the Jones Cup for the best exhibit of comb honey at the Quebec Fair last fall.

Sheep Flocks To Be Certified

A system of flock classification, requested by the Quebec Sheep Breeders' Society, will be put into effect this year, it has been announced by Pierre Labrecque, Director of the Livestock Service at Quebec.

Some 200 breeders in Quebec have already asked that this policy be established, and steps will be taken as soon as possible for a preliminary inspection of each of these flocks. Once the flock has been inspected, the owners will be expected to make any changes that may be recommended by the inspector to make the flock eligible for certification.

When this preliminary inspection has been made, an official classification of the flock will be made in the fall by a Federal and a Provincial inspector, to give the flock a definite classification. If the flock meets the requirements for certification, notice to this effect will be sent to the Sheep Breeders' Society, which will in turn issue a certificate to the owner.

To be eligible for certification, a sheep flock must contain at least 10 pure breed ewes, and should any of these not come up to specifications, the owner will be expected to replace them with qualified animals. The Department of Agriculture, in such cases, is willing to pay purchase premiums for not more than 2 ewes per breeder, at \$15 per head. No flock will be certified in which any evidence of parasitism is found.

Fast Smoking of Meat

A new continuous system of smoking meats is being developed in the United States. Bacon passes through a tunnel on an endless chain where the smoke is attracted to the meat by an electrostatic process, requiring about half an hour instead of a day and, it is claimed, achieving a more uniform application of the smoke. This together with the injection of pickle under pressure shortens the curing and smoking procedures, which a few years ago required two to four weeks, to as many days.

Co-op Federee Volume Up 23.5%

NO BETTER demonstration of the co-operative principle of continuous expansion and better services to farmers can be found than the activities of the Co-opérative Fédérée de Québec as reported at their annual meeting in Montreal at the Mount Royal Hotel February 1 and 2.

This year the big central wholesale farm supply and farm marketing co-operative, owned and operated by the farmers of Quebec through their local co-operatives, had a record sales volume of \$74,200,000 with net savings of \$713,265.

The Livestock and Meats Division accounted for the greatest increase in volume. Sales in this division rose from \$15,400,000 last year to \$26,200,000 this year. This record gain is a result of the Federee's acquisition two years ago of the assets of Legare Ltd., a packing plant in Quebec City—an investment which started to bear fruit in 1955. The Farm Supplies Division also reported a substantial increase from \$21,000,000 in 1954 to \$24,200,000 in 1955. Sales in the Dairy and other Farm Products Divisions were slightly above last year amounting to \$23,800,000.

In his opening remarks to the hundreds of delegates and visitors that thronged the huge ballroom of the hotel, J. A. Pinsonneault, president of the Federee had this to say about the co-operative movement "... our agriculture needs protection, which does not exempt the farmer from producing better and cheaper, from saving on services and from seeking more favourable prices. It is undoubtedly through co-operatives, essential tools to sane competition and to the establishment of orderly marketing, that the farmer can make his action really effective and permanent."

For Service, Not Profit

In his report to the membership, Henri C. Bois, general manager of the Federee, pointed out that co-operatives are primarily enterprises of service and not for profit. "The co-operative ideal is first to have a prosperous enterprise but also, at the same time, to render service to the greatest number ... the best test that it remains true to its ideal—is the fact that the Co-operative Federee maintains several departments which operate almost at cost."

Mr. Bois referred to the patronage savings and stated that, although a substantial sum, it is relatively small in relation to the business done. "But it is not in the search for profit, but rather in providing the most complete and best possible service, that we find the most fruitful accomplishment of the co-operative movement ... We do not exaggerate in saying that a high proportion of our business is in the category of services carried

out at cost, and sometimes even below cost, simply for the protection not only of co-operators but also of all farmers."

Machinery Sales Stimulated

The farm machinery department, started in 1952 with sales of \$767,000, recorded sales of over \$2,000,000 in 1955. The aggressive sales promotion of "Oliver-Federee" machines has put the Federee in 3rd place in farm machinery sales in the province.

Latest developments in this field include a campaign to increase volume through local co-operatives and provision for servicing the machines when the locals increase volume above a certain paying figure.

Fertilized Plan Outlined

Fertilizer manager B. Borgault told English-speaking farmers, in a separate meeting, that the Federee was developing a new program to stimulate fertilizer sales and use on farms. He stated to this meeting that the Federee could arrange for volume discount in carload lots to groups of farmers who wished to co-operate. The procedure to be followed is for a group of farmers to agree to purchase at least 20 tons of fertilizer (minimum for a carload), place their order with the local co-operative, and arrange for unloading and payment on delivery with the co-operative. In places where there are no co-operative facilities the Federee can be contacted directly. This arrangement provides for 8 percent savings on transportation and a further 5 percent savings to co-operative members or other recognized groups of farmers ordering through their local co-operative.

Democratic Control

Should anyone fear that co-operatives are not controlled by the farmers they serve, a meeting such as this one should allay any suspicions.

The province is divided into eighteen zones to give about equal representation of co-op members from each. At this year's annual meeting the zone boundaries were re-drawn to give equal representation in line with changes in numbers of co-op members. Delegates from each zone at the annual meeting elect one director.

Member co-ops are also given proportional representation at the meeting with the number of voting delegates from each co-op based on the number of members in the local and the volume of business done by it with the Federee. There are more than 400 affiliated co-operatives.

There is one final assurance that the direction of the Federee will be responsible to and remain in the hands of the 50,000 farm co-operative members. To be a director of the Federee, the nominee must be a farmer and a director of a member co-operative.

The strength of the democratic tradition of the Federee

was tested once during the meeting. Last year the directors were given the power to allocate the share of net savings to member co-operatives without recourse to the annual meeting. One delegate from a local co-operative objected to this procedure, and despite the fact that the objection amounted to a motion to rescind a by-law and was not legally presented, time was taken to have delegates vote zone by zone for or against the motion. An overwhelming majority supported the Board's handling of the patronage dividends and the matter was settled.

English Group Meets

A discussion on farm organization, reports from Federee officials, the Co-operative Medical Services, and the Farm Forum Group Car insurance program, were highlights of the Quebec Farm Forum Association semi-annual conference held in conjunction with the Federee annual meeting.

A plan for a Quebec Farmer's Association to provide better services for farm organization activities among English-speaking farm people was presented by Mrs. Gordon French on behalf of East Clifton Farm Forum, Sawyerville. This group had worked out what they would like to have in the form of a proposal for a constitution. Farm Forum delegates warmly commended this Forum on their initiative after a thorough discussion of the points raised.

In view of a proposed re-organization of Farm Forum in Quebec, it was suggested that the executive clear this

matter first with the forum members, then later work out a farm organizational set up inviting the Forums to submit suggestions. Dr. H. H. Hannam, C.F.A. president, who addressed the meeting briefly, warned against too much haste and against imposing a farm organization from above. It was better, he said, to let the demand come from farm people themselves, perhaps encouraging county farm organization development before organizing at the provincial level.

Cyril Dahms, Boyd Settlement Farm Forum, Huntingdon, presented figures from a survey done in their locality by the members, which indicated that only one in four occupying farm homes in their area could be considered full-time farmers and therefore likely to be interested in a farm organization. He recommended that other Forums conduct similar surveys in their own neighbourhood so that a more accurate judgement could be made of the potential membership for an organization of English-speaking farmers.

Out of the 60 farm homes occupied, only twenty-four were full time farmers; twenty-six farmed part time but made most of their income from other occupations. The other homes were rented to persons earning all their living outside farming, retired farmers and the like.

Among the 24 full-time farmers, five were over 65, one had his farm for sale, and three did some work off the farm. "This leaves a possible fifteen families likely to be vitally interested in a farm organization in our neighborhood" Mr. Dahms concluded.



Officers and directors of the Co-operative Federee for 1956.

Shorthorn Breeders Plan For The Future

A FEELING of optimism pervaded the annual meeting of the Quebec Shorthorn Club's annual meeting in Sherbrooke early in January, at which president Ted Bennett presided, and the fact that the business of the meeting was conducted in both languages gave point to the fact that the number of French-speaking beef breeders is on the increase in this province.

Mr. Bennett lauded the co-operation that is so evident among Shorthorn breeders, crediting this for much of the success that had been obtained during the past year. One new feature with which he was particularly happy was the display herd that had been got together for the Quebec Fair. Although there were no regular classes, enterprising breeders had gone to the trouble and expense of sending down some of their good stock, which had been seen by a great number of visitors to the Fair, which certainly had been good advertising for the breed. But nevertheless, he felt that the big Shorthorn show should be at Sherbrooke's Winter Fair, and here he was sure some improvements could be made. Better steer classes were possible than had been coming out in the past, and he hoped for an increase in interest in the coming years. As for the part Shorthorns played in the show rings of the local fairs, there was still room for a lot of improvement here also.

At the Spring Sale last year the Shorthorn average was down below those of the other breeds and he called on all the breeders to bring their best stock to the sale and make it a real Shorthorn day.

The field day held on the Warner farm had been one of the bright spots of the year and a practical demonstration of what can be accomplished with a good feeding programme and intelligent management. It was announced

during the meeting that the 1956 field day would be held on C. N. Abbott's farm at Varennes, the date to be decided later in the year.

He was very interested and pleased to see the interest in beef cattle that was being exhibited by the French Canadian breeders, and thought that every possible encouragement should be offered to them. The holding of the meetings in the two languages was a step in the right direction, and he hoped that something could be done toward printing at least part of the Shorthorn News in French, even if it might prove impractical to issue a French edition of the whole publication.

Secretary MacMillan, making the Club's seventeenth report, pointed out that the demand for Shorthorn breeding stock had been good in 1955 with average prices proving interesting to breeders. One big change in the operations of the Club had been the employment of a fieldman whose sole responsibility had been to visit breeders all over the province. With the help of the National Association, it had been possible for the Club to engage Mr. J. A. Ste. Marie, who had worked in the Three Rivers and Quebec districts during the summer as well as in the Sherbrooke area and around Lake St. John, Abitibi and Rimouski.

The Quebec Fair, Mr. MacMillan pointed out, has classes for dual-purpose Shorthorns, but this year there were so few in the show that he wondered how much longer Quebec would feel justified in continuing the prize money for this class. Although there had been no increase in membership in the Club, which still stands at 140, transfers at 653 were up 31% and registrations at 827 were up over 7%, which is an encouraging sign, showing that there are new breeders at work who apparently aren't members of the Club, and he hoped that



Members and directors of the Quebec Shorthorn Club.

some arrangement could be worked out with Ottawa so that names of all new registrants could be sent to him so that these new people could be invited to join the Quebec Club. He also urged breeders to take their best stock to the local fairs to advertise not only their own herds, but the breed as a whole.

In his report of field work during the summer, Mr. Ste. Marie came back to his old complaint, that when he has to find a certain number of good breeding Shorthorns to fill a request from some new breeder, he is hard put to find the stock in Quebec. He claimed that there are many farmers in this province who are ready to switch to beef, and he pleaded for the best possible show of Shorthorns at the Sherbrooke shows, for this is where these prospective buyers come and where they form their impressions of the relative values of the different breeds. He also thought that a really top-flight Shorthorn demonstration herd at Quebec would be splendid advertising, for many prospective buyers look the stock over there.

He had made trips throughout the province during the spring and summer and found much interest in beef. Along the St. Lawrence the farms near the river will likely remain in hay and timothy seed, but those farther away have possibilities for beef. He was particularly impressed with the possibilities for expansion of beef work in the Lake St. John, Abitibi and Rimouski areas where farms are large and pasture abundant. In the Quebec area he expected that the odd farmer might be about ready to make a switch to beef.

Fieldman Ab. Stoltz continues to see a rosy future for beef breeding in Quebec, with its rapidly growing industrial areas, and he urged every possible means of advertising the Shorthorn breed. With regard to the suggestion made earlier about French in the Review, he took it upon himself to see that something in the French language appears in future; he also suggested that the present bulletins available on beef breeding be translated into French.

Agronome MacDougall, on behalf of the E.T.A.A., Dr. Mercier of the Lennoxville Experimental Farm, and J. A. Lambert, agronome, also took part in the meeting, Dr. Mercier describing his trip to Rome recently when he took part in FAO deliberations. Terry Lowry kept the guests at lunch interested with his description of his trip to the Royal as a member of the Quebec Beef Team.

W. G. MacDougall enumerated the grants and subsidies offered beef breeders by the Provincial Government, and hoped that beef bulls would soon make their appearance at the Artificial Insemination Centre. He stated that the question of making a catalogue for the Winter Fair was under consideration by the Sherbrooke Fair board; this would probably make it necessary to charge an entry fee, and he passed this on to the meeting for their comments.

J. A. Lambert, beef cattle agronome for the Department of Agriculture also spoke briefly, promising full support at any time.

Elected president was Jean Godbout, with C. N. Abbott as first and Mrs. W. C. Pitfield as second vice-presidents. Ted Bennett was named honorary president, with Adelard Godbout, Patrice Tardif and L. H. Hamilton as honorary directors. Don MacMillan, naturally, will continue as secretary.

A New Canning Tomato Variety

Ferguson, a new tomato variety produced by the Horticulture Division of the Central Experimental Farm, is especially suited to the needs of canning crop growers in Ontario. The variety is the result of ten years of selecting and testing of the lines developed from a cross between the Bounty and Rutgers varieties, and is named after the late Wm. Ferguson who for several years headed the vegetable crops section of the Horticulture Division.

Ferguson is consistent in its performance and produces heavier yields of fruit of canning grade than Geneva John Baer regardless of adverse growing conditions. The new variety has a determinate or "bush" type plant as compared with the spreading, open structure of John Baer. It is considered vigorous and has sufficient leaf cover to protect the fruit against sunscald.

In 1954 and 1955 extensive commercial plantings were made by a number of Ontario growers. In general, the reactions of both growers and processors have been favourable, and it appears that the Ferguson variety should be of real value to the industry.

The Boy Scouts Want To Help You

This is "Conservation Good Turn Year" for the Boy Scouts of Canada, and all over the country Scouts and Cubs will be looking for jobs they can do. They have the enthusiasm but they will be glad of suggestions as to how to direct this enthusiasm into profitable channels.

Are there jobs in your community that everybody knows should be done if only someone would get at it? Why not call in the Scouts? Here are some projects that come to mind — you will be able to think of many more: Planting road cuts and road sides to prevent erosion and to beautify. Clearing slash in plantations, woodlots, etc. to keep down fire danger. Weed control by destroying poison ivy, etc.

Help with insect control.

Clean-up campaigns in town or community.

Planting to beautify streets and highways.

The Scouts are eager to tackle anything that comes their way; all they need is some encouragement and guidance. Will you not provide it for them?

Dear Readers:

The days are getting longer again. The golden rays of sunshine come in the bay window giving out as much heat as a well-fired stove. I can relax my vigil on the fires and enjoy the warmth of Old Sol as I go through the seed catalogue with dreams of what the garden will look like in the coming summer. One lesson I learned last year and that is to keep right on spraying the dahlias until into September. There were lots of buds but very few blooms matured before frost. So I just imagine there were aphids feeding on the sap of the buds, or a very tiny spider, of which I did find traces.

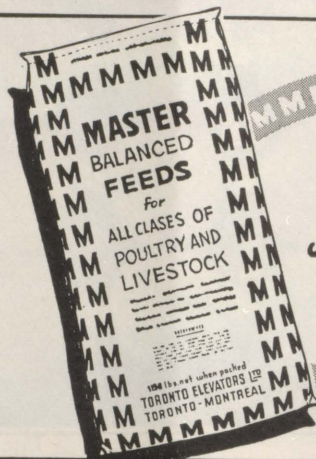
We have been busy with the arrival of calves and pigs. The coldest night (it was 32° below here) we were up with two new calves and by morning there were twelve pigs. Then the sow took sick and lay on her side for a week. We had the veterinary twice and finally succeeded in saving her, but we had to hand-feed the pigs for a few days.

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They learned to drink from the trough when from three to five days old. The sow came back with her milk a few days later so they are nice chubby fellows now.

Possibly we learned something here and that is that a sow is better off in a piggery than in the stable. It was chilly for her there this fall and we needed a new window and stove pipes to connect the box stove to the chimney, so we moved her into a box stall in the stable. But we regretted it when the weather turned so cold and froze the moisture an inch thick on the walls. That kept the stall damp and we couldn't dry it out even using two heat lights, one over the creep and one over the sow.

The veterinary advised us to replace her. We chose one from a litter that had taken first prize at the Cookshire Fair. She is a lengthy Yorkshire, and by looks and genetics should produce Grade A litters. Or at least that is what we look for when choosing a sow and then by feeding a good protein diet short on fats we get our share of good grading hogs.

Then just to keep things interesting one of the fresh cows wouldn't eat her meal. "She had a calcium deficiency" the vet. said, "and needed sugar." We gave her four or five cupfuls of sugar made into a syrup over the weekend and she is still getting two tablespoons night and morning. She is taking a small portion of meal again.

One day while the weather was still very cold the children invited in twelve of their neighbouring friends. I was amazed at how well they entertained themselves playing one amusing game after another. They started with a circle game about a black dog called "Bingo", followed by "Electric Current", and then "I Spy" in French as well as in English, for some of the children were French. You should have been here though to hear the peals of laughter caused by a dressing-up game. Two players were left each holding a bag of clothing being chosen by the sudden ending of a song. The race was on then to see who could don all the attire first. Really, at several points I had to leave the lunch preparations and go for a game too. Then as the girls

set the table the boys amused themselves playing trick games.

I was glad to hear you are attending the Community School at Knowlton. I'll be waiting to hear how you make out in the weaving course. I hope Jim progresses with his golf after attending the indoor golf school. How I wish I lived near enough to go, especially for opening night when the Knowlton Glee Club were entertaining with several selections. I'm sure I couldn't decide between the various classes of Art, Smocking, Foods and their Uses, German, Weaving, Leathercrafts, Metalwork, Photography, Practical Electricity, Typewriting, Woodwork, and Indoor Golf. It all sounds so very interesting.

We are wondering about the value of Farm Forum and if it can bring us a better marketing scheme. We know it will not pass out fifty cent pieces free, but it might bring us a Farm Organization as they have in other provinces so we could do our own market bargaining. As things now stand our prices are based on the surplus. That is, our surplus livestock goes to an open market where the buyers meet to fill their already stocked quotas. It is this market that sets our prices. Is it a satisfactory arrangement?

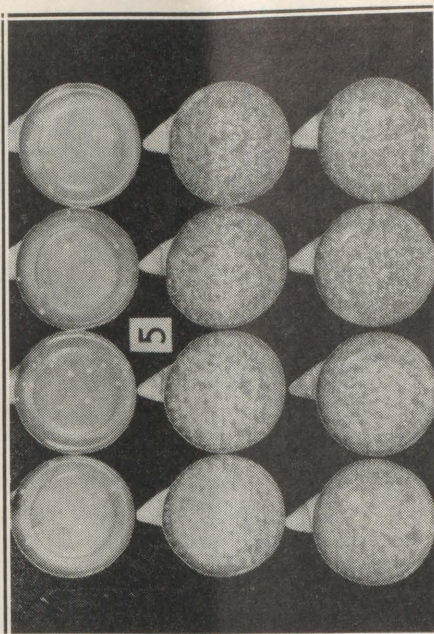
So if we milk a cow or feed a pig we should join a Farm Forum and become interested in a Farm Organization to protect our farm stability. It can't be done without YOU. The members can't vote for the non-members as they have been doing. You wouldn't want them to anyway. So come along and protect your rights to be a farmer.

Sincerely,

Wally.

Science On The Farm

Just how good are the various disinfectants used in the barn and in the farm dairy? How good are they at killing bacteria in dairy equipment, on cows' udders, in houses, farm buildings, and factories?



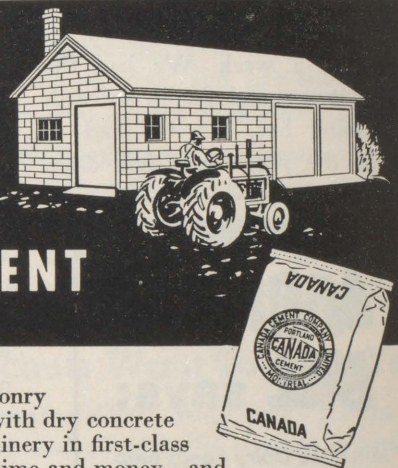
These are some of the questions that members of the Bacteriology Depart-

ment at Macdonald College hope to have answers for soon. This research project is one of several being financed by a grant from Standard Brands Limited.

The photograph shows twelve agar plates on which colonies of bacteria are growing. The colonies on the top row of plates developed when a cellulose sponge wrung out in clean water was pressed against the nutrient agar in the plates. In the middle and bottom rows are the bacteria that developed when the same sponge was pressed against the agar after it had been used to wash two udders in the barn.

When disinfectant is used in the wash water, the numbers of colonies are reduced. The amount of reduction gives an indication of the value of the disinfectant being tested.

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THE WOMEN'S INSTITUTES SECTION

*Devoted to the activities of the Quebec Institutes
and to matters of interest to them*

ANOTHER INSTITUTE SERVICE

by Minnie Coupland

THE Quebec Women's Institute is playing a vital and important part in connection with the work being done by the Canadian Cancer Society.

The Canadian Cancer Society is a national organization, with a wide range of activities. One of its main purposes is to provide money for Research, Education and Welfare, and subscriptions collected at the time of the annual campaign are distributed for these purposes.

Research and education play a most important part, since it is by these means that the cause and detection of cancer can be dealt with; therefore the allotment of money is proportionately larger for these two purposes.

Free Cancer Clinics are operated in most cities and in the larger towns. The one in Sherbrooke County is located at the St. Vincent de Paul Hospital, where an experienced staff of doctors and nurses is in charge, and any person is entitled to a free examination.

The Welfare work includes the Cancer Dressings Service. This service was first established in Montreal in 1949, under the direction of the Executive Secretary, and all dressings were dispensed from there. When the work became greater, it was necessary to open up outside branches, and various counties were allotted to each division. Dressings branches now include the original headquarters in Montreal, and branches in Quebec City, Sherbrooke, Three Rivers, St. Hyacinthe and Chicoutimi. These are in the order of their organization. Dressings are distributed only to patients who are being cared for at home, regardless of race, colour, creed or financial means.

The Sherbrooke branch serves eight counties: Arthabaska, Compton, Frontenac, Megantic, Richmond, Sherbrooke, Stanstead and Wolfe. It was organized in February, 1954, and all work is on a voluntary basis, with groups meeting three afternoons a week, with a separate day for packaging. Groups giving time each week include local Chapters of the I.O.D.E. the Catholic Women's League, branches of the Women's Institute, the Business and Professional Women's Club and the Baptist Ladies' Auxiliary. The last-mentioned has just started.

From January, 1955, to November, 1955, the Sherbrooke branch shipped and prepared a total of 61,542 dressings. Volunteers gave a total of 1,205 hours and 2,329 bedpads were made. An average of 34 patients

were served. Most of the branches in Sherbrooke County have donated toilet articles for men and women, which were put into the packages that went out during the month of December.

Old cottons and linens are supplied by the various branches of the Women's Institute (this is done all over the province) and by individual donors, and these contributions help greatly in this work. Cotton is cut into squares measuring 17" x 24", which are made into bedpads. Some branches have the cotton already cut to size when they bring it in, but any donation is gladly accepted.

While the Dressings Service is of great assistance to sufferers of this disease, we cannot forget that laboratory research is of paramount importance, and that education, through films, pamphlets and publicity plays a large part in bringing before the public the urgency of an early diagnosis in suspected cases. Through these



Salisbury Women's Institute's 28th birthday cake, in the form of an open book with the Mary Stewart Collect written on one page. This Institute is in the Federation of Women's Institutes for Southern and Northern Rhodesia.

means it is hoped that the need for the Dressing Service Branches will gradually become less.

Any Convenor may make arrangements through the Canadian Cancer Society Headquarters in Montreal to have films shown in her community, and pamphlets are available upon request.

We must co-operate to stamp out this dread disease.

The Month With The W.I.

Not many radio broadcasts mentioned this time. How about it? We should try to do more with this valuable form of publicity. It would appear that help for mentally retarded children is gaining ground among the Institutes. It is gratifying to know members are showing this concern—and doing something about it! Echoes of Christmas are still heard. Counties on the “edges” of the Province find it difficult to meet that middle-of-the-month deadline. Be as prompt as you can but send your report anyway, it will be used next time.

Argenteuil: *Arundel* has printed its Village History and it is now on sale. The usual annual donation of \$25 was given toward school prizes. The vice-president arranged a “Polish” program. Two Polish girls, dressed in native costume, danced several folk dances of their country and colored slides and films on Poland were shown. *Brownsburg* donated \$5 to the Grace Dart Hospital, Montreal. *Frontier* donated \$60 to the work for retarded children. Members are to visit patients in the Old Folk’s Home in St. Philippe. The grandmothers had charge of the program, which consisted of readings and old time songs. *Jerusalem-Bethany* donated \$5 to “Lompada” (*Lachute School Annual*). Mrs. Bridge gave a talk on the Brightonord Home in England, and items on the origin of the potato, Salk Vaccine, and a reading by Gregory Clarke were heard. Members are making a quilt for the Red Cross. *Lachute* voted money to the local Association for Retarded Children to purchase training aids. *Lakefield* netted \$5.10 from a novel apron. A gift was presented to the president on her 40th wedding anniversary. *Milie Isles* sold cards to help the treasury. *Morin Heights* is donating a flag for the school cafeteria; a picture of the Queen is to be given later. Mrs. Sutcliffe, an army nurse, gave a talk on “Life in India”, where she was stationed from 1945 to 1947. *Pioneer* donated \$10 to the Children’s Memorial Hospital and \$5 was sent to CARE. A card party and social were held. *Upper Lachute-East End* donated \$25 for the class for retarded children. The president asked all members to sale cancelled stamps for the Red Cross and members are making a quilt for that society. Colored slides were shown on a trip to the West Coast and the list of articles for the fair was discussed.

Bonaventure: *Black Cape* heard a poem, “The New Year”, read by the president and the Publicity convenor presented “New Year’s Resolutions”. Two cases of soup were donated to the school lunch room and \$10 received

from an interested friend. *Grand Cascapedia* members brought in squares for a quilt (a branch project). *Matapedia* donated \$10 toward hot lunches in the school. Plans were made to observe National Health Week. *Port Daniel* sent a Canadian Calendar to the link in Sway, England. Games were enjoyed, with prizes given, and singing. *Restigouche* made plans for a Valentine party and appointed a committee to write their Village History. Articles were ordered for a family who lost their home by fire. An article, “Opening a Book” was read by the Citizenship convenor and seeds were ordered for the school children.

Brome: *Abercorn* sent \$10 to the Flambeau Home and \$1 per member to the Q.W.I. Service Fund. *Austin* discussed extensive repairs to the hall. A skating rink is planned for the “Youth Centre”.

Chat-Huntingdon: *Dundee* gained one new member. A picture quiz contest on prominent W.I. workers and an apron demonstration formed the program. *Franklin Centre* is planning a card party instead of their regular meeting. *Hemmingford* members brought a corsage of their own making and three prizes were awarded for the prettiest ones. Mrs. Orr demonstrated basket-making from used Christmas cards. The guest speaker was Mr. C. E. Petch. *Howick* realized \$90 from the sale of cards and magazines through the year. One dollar per member was given to the Q.W.I. Fund. Mrs. C. V. Curtis, Ormstown, was the guest speaker, her topic, “Life Is A Harmony”. *Ormstown* donated a hamper of jam, jelly and pickles to the Barrie Memorial Hospital. Mrs. Brocklehurst read an article on “What is Being Done for Retarded Children” and a humorous reading, “My Husband is in a Hurry” was given by Mrs. Hooker.

Compton: *Bury* heard a talk on Ceylon given by Mrs. G. Parsons. Members have made 76 pads for Cancer patients. *Canterbury* held a Community Supper instead of a Tree at Christmas and remembered veterans in the hospital. *Cookshire* had a demonstration on making sandwiches. A bridge and 500 marathon has been started to help raise funds for a school project. *East Angus* spent \$20 on “Cheer” and had a party featuring tea-cup readings and singing. *East Clifton* had a discussion on the “Club Woman’s Creed”, by the Publicity convenor, Mrs. Parkinson recited, “If We Only Understood” and Mrs. Willard, “The Factory Chimney”. A quiz on magazines was held and \$3 given the county bursary from the sale of dolls. *Scotstown* held a social meeting and sent gifts to the Wales Home. A calendar has been received from the link, Celstock W.I., England. A marathon bridge, lasting six weeks, has been very successful.

Gaspé: *Haldimand* realized \$92.60 from talent money and \$5.45 from the sale of children’s books and gave \$10 to the Gaspé Health Unit. Stuffed animals made an interesting contest and were sent to the children at the Ross Sanitarium. *Sandy Beach* donated \$10 to the Canadian

Legion and are making plans for a concert. *Wakeham* gave two subscriptions for the Reader's Digest to two parishioners who are in the Sanitarium. The Citizenship convenor read an article on Radio Activity. *York* was pleased that one of their members won \$5 in the contest for Knitted Squares for Greece. (Congratulations). A projector has been purchased for the York Intermediate School. A contribution of \$14 was sent the Q.W.I. Service Fund.

Gatineau: *Aylmer East* heard a paper on Mental Health and an outline of the Branch History was read by Mrs. Fuller. The farmer's banquet was a success. *Eardley* had two readings, "Keep Sticking" and "Treasure Trail". Donations of \$10 each were given to Save the Children Fund and the Institute for the Blind. A quiz and candy sale were held. *Lower Eardley* heard how clay for children's play could be made at home. "Is Emotional Stress Your Back Seat Driver" was read by Mrs. Pink. Mrs. Perry gave advice on African Violets and the Publicity convenor read, "Some Prominent Initiators of the W.I. in England". Talent groups of four are to raise \$5 each, proceeds for the Service Fund. A donation of \$5 was sent the Brookdale Home. *Rupert* heard Mrs. Gibson read from the Provincial Convenor's report on Welfare & Health on the progress of the Q.W.I. in making its members "health conscious". Special mention was made of the need for work to be done for mentally retarded children. Arrangements were made to knit and sew for "Save the Children Fund". *Wright* had a health program with talks on "Food After 40", "Pasteurization of Milk" and "Simple Things". "God Bless Thy Year" was the poem read by the chairman on opening the meeting.

Missisquoi: *Fordyce* is listening and evaluating two radio programs. A quilt was displayed and later sold for \$52.50, the proceeds used for donations to the Children's Memorial Hospital, Cecil Memorial Home and the Bondville Orphanage. Gifts have also been sent to the hospital at Sweetzburg, for the children. One dollar per member has been given for the UNESCO Gift Coupon Scheme. *Stanbridge East* had a "Ceylon" meeting and a membership has been taken out in the UN Association in Canada. Money-raisers were card parties, travelling apron, cup and saucer sale, and Nylon demonstration (W.I. receiving 15% of sales). Money given includes prizes in the school and \$10 for hot lunches. School Fair seeds have been ordered. Two boxes of clothing were collected for the Flambeau Home.

Pontiac: *Clarendon* donated \$10 to the Anti-TB Society and \$26 to the Service Fund. *Quyon* had a musical meeting. *Stark's Corners* had the popular "five cents a piece" cake and reported the customary season's "Cheer". *Shawville* donated cottons to the Cancer Society. A bridge marathon realized \$55 for the W.I. *Wyman* had a program of contests and readings. Two afternoons

were spent in mending at the local hospital and \$25 donated to a family who had lost their home by fire.

Quebec: *Valcartier* netted \$100 from a Euchre party, donated \$50 to the Cancer Fund and \$25 to a man who lost his home by fire. A large attendance is reported at a social meeting.

Richmond: *Cleveland* members named, displayed and told something about their birthstones. A quiz was held. *Gore* had a sale of unseen hats, valued at 25 cents. These were modelled by the purchaser amidst much merriment. *Melbourne Ridge* presented life memberships to old members, Mrs. McMorine and Mrs. Guy Frank. Donations of \$10 each were given the Salvation Army and the County Treasury. Gifts were sent to the Children's Memorial Hospital. *Richmond Hill* had a talk on maple sugar and syrup and their uses and a paper on poison ivy. A donation of \$14 was given the Service Fund. *Richmond YWI* had a contest on cookies with prizes and then sold them. *Shipton* sponsored a teen-age dance for local young people. *Spooner Pond* had a contest on pot-holders, followed by an auction. Two scrap-books have been made for the children's ward at the Sherbrooke Hospital. *Windsor Mills* sent a gift to an elderly lady in England (a yearly project). A bingo party was successful and a food sale is planned.

Rouville: *Abbotsford* heard two articles read by the Citizenship Convenor, "Insights of Domesticity" and "Canada, Land of Promise".

Stanstead: *Ayer's Cliff* discussed improvements in local sanitation and the Welfare & Health convenor read items from the Health Bulletin. The local library is still sponsored by the branch. Two life memberships were presented to members with an outstanding record of long and faithful service, Mrs. Wm. Robinson and Mrs. Little. Mrs. Embury, the County President was present for the ceremony and the Provincial President, Mrs. LeBaron, phoned a message of congratulation. One quart of milk daily will be provided for two months for a needy family. *Beebe* had Mrs. Walter Smith as guest speaker to discuss the current project, help for mentally retarded children. She also spoke of the course held last summer in Montreal. A donation of \$25 was given the school for hot lunches and the same amount earmarked for prizes during the current year. This branch had the monthly broadcast over *Wike*, Newport. *Hatley Centre* sent a load of wood and groceries to a family in the neighbourhood and candies and diapers to the Cecil Memorial Home. The sum of \$25 has been given toward tuition of a member's son at the MacKay School for the Deaf. *Minton* reports much activity in the spreading of "Sunshine". *Stanstead North* held a discussion on the giving of school prizes (should be given for social virtues which can be achieved by any child) and how to help the CAC in our shopping. A Round Robin netted \$1.95. *Tomifobia* had a busy meeting and sent gifts to the

Children's Memorial Hospital. Way's Mills held a quiz on Citizenship. Letters of thanks have been received from Cecil Memorial Hospital and \$5 was sent to the Sherbrooke Hospital.

Vaudreuil: Cavagnal celebrated their 30th anniversary, complete with a Birthday Cake. The W.I. scholarship was won by John Astwood, Hudson High School. A letter of thanks was read from the Cancer Society for linen donated and a gift was presented to Mrs. P. Allen, prior to her departure to reside in England. Harwood had a musical evening, led by the Harwood Singers. Both branches in this county remembered the veterans in Ste. Annes Military Hospital.

OFFICE HAPPENINGS

Cheers for our Convenor of Education, Miss Catherine Mackenzie! she successfully contested a seat on the Town Council in the January elections at her home in Stansstead.

Mrs. R. Sayre, Past President of the Associated Country Women of the World, is director of women's activities for the President's Traffic Safety Committee in the United States. The sums up the way women's groups can help: By getting facts about the local traffic situation and the problems that exist — By developing an informed public opinion on the problems and public support for an organized traffic safety program. Our National President, Mrs. Adams, was chairman for the Women's Division of the first National Highway Safety Conference held in Ottawa last year. Following her report Traffic Safety was added to the list of topics to be discussed when the Q.W.I. and the Montreal Council of Women hold their Conference at the January semi-annual board meeting. (Will be reported in next issue of Journal, meeting not held at time of writing).

What Others Are Doing

Do you still fall for so-called "Free" offers? Do you still believe in "the lowest price in town"? These are but a few of the searching questions asked by Mr. Claude Root, President, Better Business Bureau, Montreal, speaking at a recent meeting of the Quebec English Branch of the Canadian Association of Consumers. "We insist our retailers should practise ethical procedure in dealing with the public which is not always right" he stated and went on to emphasize the urgent need for more education for the consuming public. Mr. Root felt this was a challenge to women's groups and suggested small panels might be formed to acquaint themselves with better business methods. He promised the support of his Association with such a project.

The program at the last meeting of the Montreal Council of Women was a play presented by the Jewish Junior Welfare League. This was entitled "The Room Upstairs" and showed in vivid fashion the problems of aging people (the old mother in this case) who has to live with her daughter and family. A summation at the

close by Mrs. Saul Hayes further emphasized points for discussion, one being the need for companionship and recreation with others of that older age group.

UNESCO GIFT COUPONS

The list this time is:

Ascot	\$25
Beebe	10
Brompton Road	10

National Salon of Agriculture

For the first time the Salon will have a Women's Program, and the over-all theme is "Women in the Home". The dates are February 17-26, the place, the Show Mart, Montreal. Thursday, February 23rd, has been reserved for English-speaking women and demonstrations have been arranged on Nutrition and Textiles in Interior Decorating. Miss Janet McOuat, Q.W.I. technician and Mrs. Donald A. Killam of the C.A.C. are serving on the committee. Miss Eveline LeBlanc, Home Economist, Consumer Section, Dept. of Agriculture, Ottawa, is Chairman of the Women's Committee.

The other Q.W.I. Technician, Miss Bridget Altimas, is spending a few weeks in Quebec City, taking courses in Advanced Weaving and Rug-making. These courses are given every winter to the technicians employed by the Home Economics & Handicrafts Division, Dept. of Agriculture, Quebec.

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Gloves and Soapsuds

Emily Post (slightly misquoted) says, "A really smart woman always wears gloves whether she is outdoors in town or country, in a restaurant, or in a theatre; she wears them when she goes to lunch or to a formal dinner or to a dance; and a lady never takes off her gloves to shake hands. In fact, on formal occasions, she must put them on to greet her hostess or her own guests."

In 1885, Godey's Lady's Book declared, "Your gloves should be donned in the privacy of your boudoir and, of course, worn during the entire evening. However, afternoon gloves are short, and can, on occasion, be put on in the presence of your escort since the shortness of the glove deprives the act of the immodest intimacy connected with the formal, longer glove."

The etiquette of the glove was even more exacting and fantastic in earlier times. In the seventeenth century a young lady would sleep with a glove under her pillow that she might dream of the paragon, who, surely, would come to woo and wed. The acceptance of a gift of gloves from a swain was more binding than our engagement ring, and the presentation by the bridegroom to the bride's father of one of his gloves was a promise to care for the bride single-handed for ever after.

To the fiery gallant of medieval times, the offer of a gloved hand in greeting was an insolent and intolerable insult, but to the ancient Chinese gentlemen, the award of a leather glove was a gesture of warm welcome and an expression of joy at the prospect of friendly communion.

Care of Gloves

However varied the demands of the etiquette of gloves, one social dictum remains constant: they must be smooth, fresh and immaculate. So the question arises, "Are leather gloves washable?" The answer is to be found on the label. If the leather has been chrome or oil tanned, they can be washed quite safely. There is a third method, alum tannage, which does not protect the leather against the drying and hardening effects of soap and water, and leather tanned by this process would be ruined by soap and water. Success is insured by several precautions.

Do's and Dont's of Washing

Do not wash gloves unless they are labelled "washable". Do not wash gloves which have been dry-cleaned. The solvent removes certain oils from fine leathers, making successful washing difficult.

Do not let gloves become heavily soiled. Embedded dirt and grease often dull the color permanently and harden leather.

Do not soak or otherwise prolong the washing process as the dyes are seldom fast to water. Even if the glove is undyed, soaking will soften the leather dangerously. Wash in tepid or lukewarm water (100°-110° F.), using a mild soap whipped into a rich lather. Special glove soaps are sold at many department stores.

Chamois and doeskin are dipped up and down, or kneaded and squeezed, in the soapy water. Do not wash on the hands as these leathers become plastic and weak when wet, and may cut along the stitching.

Other leathers can be put on as worn and massaged as if washing the hands. Cleanse the stubborn soil by gently rubbing suds into the leather with the fingertips, or by brushing with a soft brush. Remove by rolling down from the wrist. Do not pull the soft, water-saturated leather; wet leather is fragile.

Rinse three times in tepid water. A drop or two of olive oil in the last rinse water keeps pigskin gloves soft and pliable.

Remove the excess moisture by laying between the folds of a lint-free linen towel. Unroll at once and repeat if necessary. Choose an old towel, the dye may stain it. Do not wring or twist.

Shape the glove by turning back the cuff and inflate the fingers by blowing into them to smooth the crumpled leather. Lay flat on a dry linen towel and work gently to the original form, just as it was when it came from the box. Pull the fingers out, fold in the fourchettes, shape the palm and cuff, fold the thumb over the palm, and straighten the cuff edge. Handle lightly, do not crush the delicate leather. If the color of any decorative stitching tends to run, lay a fold paper inside the glove. Glove forms can be used for shaping; they are a convenience but not a necessity.

Dry the glove slowly, away from sun or artificial heat, either of which will harden the leather.

Finger pressing is important, the oil and warmth of the hand soften the leather and help to keep the glove lovely. It is done while the glove is slightly damp. Place the fingers of both hands inside the cuff, thumbs on outside. Work the leather over the forefingers, around the cuff, across the back and palm. Place a glove stretcher or any other smooth object inside the fingers, then draw gently downward against the leather. If the leather dries before the pressing is complete, draw the glove through moist hands or roll in a lightly dampened towel, unroll immediately, and finish pressing.

One further refinement may be added, the sweet elusive scent which was the delight of the first Elizabeth of England. Her two thousand pairs of fine leather gauntlets, embroidered and jewel-studded, were permanently scented with many essences, ambergris and civet, jassamine, cloves and nutmeg. Modern women need only slip delicate sachets, hinting of fragrance, into her glove box.

—MARJORIE JENKINS

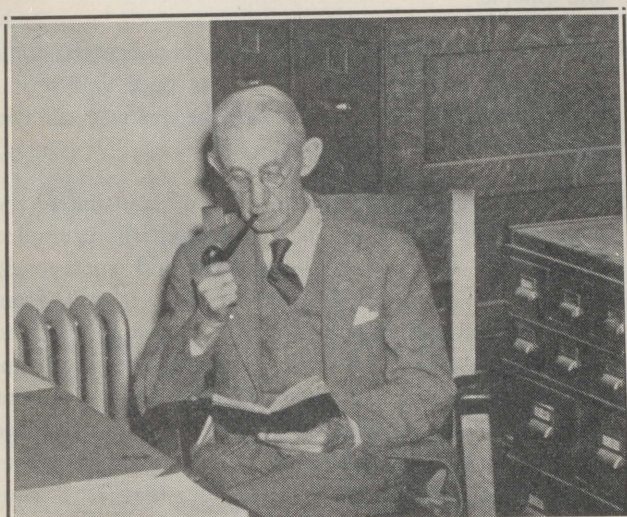


THE COLLEGE PAGE

The Macdonald Clan

Notes and News of Staff Members and Former Students

A Familiar Figure Leaves The Campus



Archie Walker with the book in which he recorded the first sale of flowers from the greenhouse—in October, 1908.

A link with the past has been severed with the death on January 28th of Mr. A. H. (Archie) Walker, one of the very first members of the staff of Macdonald College, and a man whose knowledge has been shared with Canadians from coast to coast through his weekly gardening column in the *Family Herald and Weekly Star*.

A keen and dedicated horticulturist, Mr. Walker never spared himself when it came to helping anyone who came to him for advice. Generations of students at Macdonald College will remember his lectures on flower growing, his demonstrations on bulb planting, his talks tinged with the Scottish burr that more than fifty years of life in Canada could not erase.

For Archie was a son of Scotland, where he gained that thorough training in his art that in later years always made him impatient with "good enough" ways of doing things. To him, every plant, every shrub, was a living thing to be given tender care and careful handling. Whether working at Drumlanrig Castle in Ayrshire, where he started his career, in commercial floriculture in

Montreal, or in the plots and the greenhouses at the College, this meticulous care brought its dividends in beautiful flowers.

He and the College grew along together; he was a member of the original 1907 staff and he had much to do with the planning and the planting of the trees and shrubs that have made the Macdonald campus one of the most beautiful in the country. Although he retired from College duties in 1947 he was an active member of the community, busy with his weekly column, until just a few days before his death.

The Family Herald's New Women's Editor

Miss Joy Guild, who graduated with her B.Sc. (H.Ec.) degree in 1947, has been appointed Women's Editor of the *Family Herald* and *Weekly Star*, succeeding the late Mrs. Maud Kerr.

Miss Guild, immediately after graduation, was appointed Demonstrator for the Quebec Women's Institutes. She spent three very successful years in this position, and resigned in the early part of 1950 to accept

a post on the staff of the *Family Herald*. She has been assistant to Mrs. Kerr, and for several months while Mrs. Kerr was incapacitated by illness she has been in complete charge of this section of the paper.

Our hearty congratulations, and wishes for a happy journalistic career, go to Miss Guild.





Bringing coals from a neighbour's.

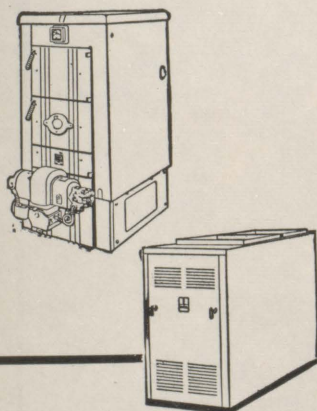
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